

ACU statement on international student caps

Australian Catholic University Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Julie Cogin has made the following statement in response to the announcement about international student caps.

"Despite delays and reductions in student visas, ACU has attracted international students to all of our campuses in the past few years.

"Aside from the many benefits international education brings to Australia's social and economic fabric, our results illustrate that a culturally diverse student population, including students from Indigenous, international, and domestic backgrounds, creates a rich and vibrant learning experience.

"We also know that our international students are valuable contributors to the communities in which they are based.

"Since 2023, ACU has grown its international cohort by more than 40 per cent. Importantly, we have kept the proportion of international students below 20 per cent of our total enrolment, ensuring the university is not overly reliant on the fees generated by international students.

"Under the government proposal, new international student enrolments will be capped at 270,000 from next year – shared across all Australian higher education and vocational education providers.

"The proposed commencing international student load cap for ACU is lower than our current position, which is disappointing given our enrolment profile is aligned with areas of critical skill shortages for Australia.

"I trust that the government does not wish to constrain the education of healthcare professionals, teachers and youth workers and look forward to further consultation with the government."

Professor Julie Cogin is available for interview.

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